

Sisters' S. C. E.

HOW SHALL WE INTEREST CHURCH MEMBERS IN THE S. S. C. E?

[Read at a public meeting of the S. S. C. E. at Bethlehem, Harrisonburg, Va., by Jos. I. HALL.]

They should be impressed with the idea of duty. We should know our duty and then perform it without flinching. Be brave and true. I cannot better illustrate the idea of performing duty than to relate to you an instance in the life of Col. Davenport of Connecticut. May 19, 1780, was a dark day in that state. Candles were lighted in many houses; the birds were silent, and disappeared; and domestic fowls retired to roost. The people were impressed with the idea that the day of judgment was at hand. This opinion was entertained by the Legislature, at that time sitting at Hartford.

The House of Representatives adjourned; the council proposed to follow the example. Col. Davenport objected. The day of judgment is at hand or it is not, he said. If it is not, there is no cause for an adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish, therefore, that the candles may be brought. The inspiration of that heroic conclusion brought about such an interest that the candles were brought, and the work resumed even under such trying circumstances, and gives to the world an instance of true Christian heroism, and an example for us to emulate.

Motley, the historian, tells us that Holland lost her freedom by one officer neglecting his duty. Here we have an example of individual duty.

Let the members of the society leave nothing undone that ought to be done. When there is a duty, perform it if you are able. No duty should be imposed upon any one who is not able to perform it. Let each member feel fully interested in the work and do it cheerfully. Keep wide awake to all its interests. Let the devotional part of each meeting be uppermost in the heart. In even the work meetings ask God's blessings upon it. Should there be a public meeting, with the full sense of true devotion use every energy to make it in the highest sense entertaining and instructive. Use literature of the highest character, that the mind may be enriched as well as developed. When these points are kept in full view we may expect an interest. Those who wish to learn, and see the young developed into true manhood and womanhood will become fully interested in the work of a society whose meetings show preparation. We must prepare to be skillful workmen.

"All that you do, do with your might
Things done by halves are never done right."

We do not need be critics to see it in that light. If we are in the vineyard of the Lord don't be satisfied with work half performed. God is not pleased with work half done.

Commend rather than censure. Speak kindly about work that is done as well as work that is to do.

The officers should give direct information to those who ask for it. Don't have any cold formality in the work, but with kind, loving, forbearing, forgiving hearts, work as a kind loving family. Don't magnify the mistakes of individual members, or strife will arise in the society to the disgust of all, but with the spirit of Christ look each one to his or her own shortcomings, which is one of the great duties of man. Then light will appear where otherwise darkness would reign, and leave no inspiration for the members of the church. No interest, no sympathy where contention ceaseth not. If sunshine and love be kept in the society, the members of the church will long for its meetings. Long to be in the holy influence of the society to reap the spiritual blessings as well as receive mental aid, and being in its kind association.

Brothers and sisters, look on the bright side. In fact look for no other side or you will be sure to find it. If that should be, then we do not stand in the proper relation for others to be interested in the society. Let the hand of God lead us, then we will be actuated by proper motives and will increase *our* interest and inspire others.

FROM CORNELL, ILL.

A few days ago our president of the Christian Endeavor, informed me that I was corresponding secretary for the Society, and also hinted, they would like to see a report of our work in the EVANGELIST. I so often wonder why it is, so few of the sisters write for the paper. When our kind Editor has given us a column of our own, and our dear president has asked us repeatedly to write.

When the sister said she thought it time for a report, (I thought to myself) how easy it is to expect more of others, than we are willing to do ourselves.

As for the work, we are still on the mountain top, doing with our might any thing we find to do. Our carpet rags for 50 yards of carpet are sewed; and we have commenced something new, which we have faith to believe will prove a grand success.

If any of the sisters hear from us personally they need not be surprised. Since

our last communication we gave an oyster supper, though it did not prove to be what we anticipated it would be, principally on account of bad roads and the inclement weather. But we are not discouraged and in due time will have another. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." We are increasing slowly in numbers though the attendance is not as good as we would like to see. But the old stand by's are always at their post of duty. We know who they are, and only wish we had more of them. Our S. S. C. E. is a great aid to the Church; we could not get along without it. But while it is true we work hard to keep our treasury filled; we try to remember also, we are working for souls salvation. Hence at each meeting we enjoy the prayers and testimonies that are offered up in behalf of the unsaved. At our monthly business meetings, we endeavor to carry out the program in the EVANGELIST; this we find is very interesting, and gives those something to do who are not very active at "other times," I wish we had one for each month. Cannot the sisters prepare a topic, some of them, for each month? At one meeting after our devotional services we went out visiting the sick, and those who had become careless and indifferent about the Society. However we did not have time to visit all, but we have not forgotten them and are longing for the time when they will be with us again.

We have organized a Y. P. S. C. E. with our pastor as leader. We now have preaching, prayer-meeting, S. S. C. E. and Christian Endeavor. You see Cornell means business. Our pastor is young in the ministry, but has the ability to preach in that way and manner, and with such power that only the heart of stone would cease to melt. Too much cannot be said in praise, as to his being an earnest, active, devoted Christian.

Oh, we are looking forward to the time when we can see a Brethren church erected here in this place. How thankful we are, for blessings we have received from God in the last three years on our little church. May he still continue to bless us; and may we pray in faith believing, then He will answer prayer.

Now dear sisters let us hear from you, and may we work on striving to become better each day, and to do more for our Savior this year than ever before, so when life is ended we may have a home in that beautiful city, he has gone to prepare for us. Ever your Sister in Christ.

MRS. ALICE J. HOLMES.

STRONG drink is not only the devil's way into a man, but a man's way to the devil.—Adam Clarke, D. D.